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Message Text

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15
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15

ACDA-10 OMB-01 EB-07 AID-05 TRSE-00 /089 W
---------- 130882
R 100332Z FEB 76
FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2434
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
CINCPAC

UNCLAS KUALA LUMPUR 0732

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PFOR, MY, SN
SUBJ: PRIME MINISTER HUSSEIN'S VISIT TO SINGAPORE

REF: SINGAPORE 0615 (DTG 060847Z FEB 76)
SINGAPORE 0622 (DTG 070541Z FEB 76)

1. KUALA LUMPUR PRESS TREATMENT OF PRIME MINISTER
HUSSEIN ONN'S FEB 5-6 VISIT TO SINGAPORE, INCLUDING
HIS PRESS CONFERENCE THERE AND REMARKS TO
REPORTERS ON HIS RETURN TO KUALA LUMPUR,
GENERALLY IN ACCORD WITH REFTELS AND FBIS REPORTING.
ACCORDING TO PRESS, HUSSIEN IMPHASIZED MUTUAL
SATISFACTION WITH DEGREE OF COOPERATION IN VARIOUS
FIELDS BETWEEN MALAYSIA AND SINGAPORE; NOTED
STRESSED VALUE OF PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP
BETWEEN HIMSELF AND SINGAPORE PM LEE;
DISCUSSED ASEAN SUMMIT AGENDA ITEMS,
INCLUDING ZONE OF PEACE, FREEDOM AND
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NEUTRALITY, WHICH REQUIRES NON-INTERFERENCE

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BY BIG POWERS, AND FREE TRADE ZONE,
ABOUT WHICH SOME MEMBERS HAVE RESERVATIONS
ON TIMING.

2. EMPHASIS IN LOCAL PRESS ON SEVERAL ITEMS
DIFFERED FROM TREATMENT REPORTED ELSEWHERE.
GOVERNMENT-INFLUENCED "NEW STRAITS TIMES" (NST)
AND INFLUENTIAL CHINESE DAILY "NANYANG
SIANG PAU" BOTH HEADLINED HUSSEIN'S ASSURANCE
TO FOREIGN INVESTORS THAT MALAYSIA "HAS THE
WILL AND POWER TO CONTAIN AND DEFEAT COMMUNIST
TERRORISM, AND IS EVEN MORE DETERMINED THAT
EVER TO DO SO." (MALAY DAILY "UTUSAN MALAYSIA"
RAN EDITORIAL TITLED "DON'T PANIC" EMPHASIZING
THIS POINT.) PM SAID THAT "THE SITUATION
IS WELL UNDER CONTROL" AND THAT "THE SOLUTION
DOES NOT LIE IN MILITARY MEASURES ALONE, BUT
IN OTHER WAYS LIKE GETTING THE COOPERATION OF
THE PEOPLE AND WINNING THEIR HEARTS AND
MINDS." HE ADDED: WE HAVE OVERCOME PAST
PROBLEMS "BECAUSE WE HAVE THE WILL, THE
INTENTION AND SINCERITY OF PURPOSE TO
CREATE A JUST SOCIETY IN WHICH WE WILL
SHARE NOT ONLY THE WEALTH BUT ALSO THE
BURDEN." HUSSEIN NOTED THAT MOUTING
INSTANCES OF TERRORISM HAD FRIGHTENED
AWAY POTENTIAL INVESTORS, THUS GIVING
IMPRESSION THAT MALAYSIA'S STABILITY AND
SECURITY IN DOUBT AND UPSETTING CONFIDENCE
OF INVESTORS ON WHOM "WE DEPEND TO ASSIST
US TO DEVELOP OUR COUNTRY."

3. ASKED WHETHER HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE
CONTINUED U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN SOUTHEAST
ASIA, HUSSEIN'S REPLY AS CARRIED BY NST
WAS THAT HE WAS CERTAIN U.S. DID NOT WANT TO
"ABANDON" ITS PRESENCE. HE SAID THAT HE
BELIEVED U.S. STILL HAD "A GREAT DIPLOMATIC
AND ECONOMIC ROLE IN THE REGION." ANSWER TO
SAME QUESTION AS CARRIED BY CHINESE-LANGUAGE
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"SIN CHEW JIT POH," HOWEVER, VIRTUALLY
IDENTICAL OT VERSION REPORTED PARA 9
SINGAPORE 0622. IT IS UNCLEAR WHETHER RATHER
MORE POSITIVE AND LESS SUSPICIOUS INTERPRETATION
OF HUSSEIN'S ANSWER CARRIED BY NST WAS DELIBERATE
OR REFLECTED INACCURATE REPORTING OF PM'S REMARKS.
UNDERHILL

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NNN

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